



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-3376, **Agenda Item #:** 24.

11/18/2021

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with Arup US, Inc., (staff recommendation) for Request for Qualifications Solicitation No. CLMP322 to provide Professional Engineering Services for the IH-35 Cap and Stitch Improvements Consultant in the amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.

[Note: This contract will be awarded in compliance with City Code Chapter 2-9B (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) by meeting the goals with 21.90% MBE and 16.00% WBE participation.]

Lead Department

Capital Contracting Office.

Managing Department

Austin Transportation Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$1,600,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Capital Budget of the Austin Transportation Department. Funding in the amount of \$400,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Capital Budget of the Public Works Department.

Purchasing Language:

The only firm evaluated through the City's qualification-based selection process.

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov <<mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov>>

NOTE: Respondents to this solicitation, and their representatives, shall direct inquiries to Rolando Fernandez, 512-974-7749, Rick Wilson, 512-974-7261, or the Project Manager, Eric Bollich, 512-974-7767.

Additional Backup Information:

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is proposing a major reconstruction of IH-35 through Austin. Through their effort, the City has a unique opportunity to address long-standing equity and mobility issues regarding the IH-35 corridor. In coordination with TxDOT's federally regulated planning process, the City can drive cap and stitch development, funding, and implementation. If approved, TxDOT's planned improvements will include the structural infrastructure to support the City's cap and stitch plan. Working together with the community, our agencies can bring solutions to a long-discussed problem of inadequate and substandard pedestrian and bike crossings of the IH-35 corridor to connect East and Central/West Austin.

As TxDOT considers lowering the central portion of IH-35 through downtown Austin, the opportunity exists for the City to create "caps," or decks covering the highway that can reclaim that property as public space, and "stitches," or wide bridges that would add enhanced east-west connections across I-35.

TxDOT has created a schematic showing where TxDOT has deemed downtown caps and wide bridge structures (stitches) to be structurally feasible, based on preliminary analysis. The final locations of caps and stitches have yet to be confirmed. Responsibility for funding and/or constructing these lids and wider bridge decks is yet to be determined.

The City has an active consultant contract through its Large-Scale Civil Engineering Rotation List (CLMP272-2020) producing a feasibility study as the first phase of cap and stitch evaluation. This feasibility study will provide strong fundamental concepts for integrating caps and stitches into TxDOT's Capital Express Central project. The feasibility study will include:

- Preliminary transportation engineering structural analysis for multi-modal mobility, safety, and connectivity.
- Conceptual landscape architectural design for the site and programming analysis.
- Concept development for usage and loading on the caps and stitches.

Under this contract, the Consultant will provide professional engineering services for IH-35 Cap and Stitch improvements that are necessary to capitalize upon the first-phase feasibility study to carry out the community's vision of reconnecting the City along the corridor by refining cap and stitch concepts, analyzing impacts and opportunities for the community, and providing outreach to the community and stakeholders.

The Consultant will conduct services needed to fulfill the stated objectives of this project and produce these key deliverables:

- Design and engineering refinements of the cap and stitch appurtenances
- Disruption mitigation programs for small businesses and anti-displacement strategies
- Establishment and preservation programs and strategies for music and art venues
- Reports documenting project process, assumptions, findings, community engagements, and recommendations
- Graphics and exhibits to supplement written reports

The active consultant contract for the first phase of Cap and Stitch evaluation is anticipated to conclude by Spring of 2022. Authorization of the I-35 Cap and Stitch Improvements Consultant by Council in November 2021 would allow the City to build upon the first phase without a lapse in consultant work.

This project is critical to advancing the feasibility study as the first phase of Cap and Stitch evaluation. The deliverables included in this I-35 Cap and Stitch Improvements Consultant solicitation will produce the concepts and designs required to define the cap and stitch improvements necessary to include them in a future construction phase when funding has been identified.

If this project is not approved, future caps and stitches constructed as local enhancements or as mitigation for the Capital Express Central project may not be possible.

This authorization provides for funding of the above-listed services. This request allows for the development of an agreement with the qualified responder that Council awards. If the City is unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with the awarded responder, negotiations will cease with that provider. Staff will return to Council so that Council may award another qualified responder and authorize contract negotiations with that provider.

TOP RANKED FIRM: Arup US, Inc. is located in Houston, Texas

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety, Economic Opportunity and Affordability, Health and Environment, Mobility.